(a) whether Government are aware of National Conference on Law and Justice reforms recently concluded in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues mainly raised in this conference;

(c) whether any suggestion has been made to incur the most of the expenditure with regard to lower courts by Government and making provision for adequate facilities for these courts;

(d) whether any suggestion has been given to Government not to keep all the reports of law commission by saying them as confidential; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Report of the 16th Law Commission on right to silence, arrest etc.

105. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 16th Law Commission has submitted its report on issues like right to silence, arrest, public interest disclosure, amendment in the Transfer of Property Act, Land Acquisition Act, etc.; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not placing the same before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The 16th Law Commission has submitted its 177th Report on "Law Relating to Arrest", 179th Report on "The Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers", 180th Report on "Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India and the Right to Silence", 181st Report on "Amendment to Section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882" and 182nd Report on "Amendment of Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894".

(b) As and when a report is received from the Law Commission, the same is forwarded to the Ministry/ Department concerned in confidence for examination of the recommendations made by the Commission. It is

also sent for Hindi translation. Once Hindi translation is ready, the requisite number of copies of the report in both English and Hindi are prepared for laying it on the Tables of the two Houses of the Parliament. Now, the requisite number of copies of the aforesaid Reports (in both Hindi and English) are ready and proposed to be laid on the Table of the House on 25.11.2002.

Transfer of cases on service matters to Lok Adalats

106. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to transfer all cases on service matters from High Courts to permanent Lok Adalats being set up to clear the huge backlog of cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to fill the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts which are hovering around 145 at present?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on November 13, 2002, against the approved Judge strength of 647 (including 43 new posts) of the High Courts, there were 499 Judges in position leaving 148 posts vacant.

The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the existing vacancies and those expected to arise, as early as possible but at least six months before the occurrence of the vacancies. They were requested last on October 28, 2002 to make recommendation for filling up the vacancies expeditiously.

Suggestion of CJI on pending cases in courts

107. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: